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New bars in Old City? Some object

Brewing battle between neighborhood's businesses and residents puts future of nightlife in crosshairs Civic group wants stronger regulations on opening new clubs and bars Business district hopes city won't restrict popular scene {page 04}

MEEND

Interview. LMFAO

▶ With "Party Rock Anthem," LMFAO have had the No. 1 song in the country for five straight weeks. As writer Meredith Engel found out in what turned out to be a very revealing sit-down interview with the duo, Redfoo and SkyBlu don't just sing about the party lifestyle. They live it. {page 12}

News

Now's the time to refinance

Homeowners take advantage of rock-bottom interest rates to lessen loan terms Expert: 'Window can shut fast' {page 06}

A big hooray for Hudson

The singer does something good with her celebrity and helps Chicago schools {page 08}

Thrillers you can't put down

These page-turners need to be on your must-read list {page 10}

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Iran prosecutor: Fattal verdict 'soon'

American hikers detained in Iran two years ago will "soon" receive "final verdicts," according to reports out of the country and region yesterday.

Elkins Park native Josh Fattal has been held in custody since July 2009 after being arrested while hiking alongside the Iran-Iraq border.

"Reviewing the case has ended and the final verdict will be issued soon," Prosecutor General Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei told news agency ISNA, according to the Jerusalem Post.

The Tehran prosecution has evidence — according to CNN, which quoted Iran's Press TV — that the two have been collaborating with U.S. intelligence agencies, but their families have denied that all along. The young men met in California during college and have never worked for the U.S. government.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Fattal

"All indications are positive, and I am very hopeful for their release — unless something unexpected happens," the hikers' lawyer Massoud Shafiee told the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran. ● YOTAM DROR

The push to take trolleys off track

- South Philly residents would like two bus routes converted back to trackless trolleys
- SEPTA says 'funding issue' in way of switch
- Proponents say trackless trolleys run cleaner, quieter than buses

South Philadelphia residents, hear that? It's the roar of SEPTA buses operating in place of trackless trolleys eight years after SEPTA removed them from service.

In 2003, SEPTA replaced the trackless trolleys with buses on the Routes 29 and 79 due to construction detours and the need for new trolleys, but it has kept the buses in South Philadelphia while adding the trolleys in the Northeast. Residents want the trolleys back and have refused to let the issue die.

"I just finished writing a letter to Mayor Nutter," said Susan Patrone, former president of the Passyunk Square Civic Association, who has been front and center on the fight. "The [trolleys are] quiet, they're not diesel dependent. They're just as important to the landscape as our buildings."

The Clean Air Council has called for restoration of the trolleys. SEPTA admits that trolleys could save money in the long run, but has said it would cost about $50 million for the two routes, including the purchase of 23 vehicles and improvements to equipment.

RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ These trackless trolleys are on one of three routes through northern Philadelphia.

▶ S. Philly's 29 bus.

SEPTA's cash cow

Advocates for the trolleys claim federal funds are available, but Busch insists: "[SEPTA is] going after every dime. Anytime there's money available for capital improvements, we're aggressively pursuing that."

Last month, SEPTA transferred $20.4 million into its service stabilization fund thanks to ridership gains, bringing the fund to approximately $100 million, but Busch said the agency cannot use the money for capital projects. ● METRO/SDL

RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ He's back.

Kalas statue unveiled today

The much-anticipated unveiling of a statue of legendary broadcaster Harry Kalas is scheduled for this evening prior to the Phillies game against Arizona after it was initially postponed along with the Phillies-Nationals game Sunday due to heavy rain.

The unveiling was specifically planned for that game to symbolize the last game Kalas ever attended. Kalas died in the booth April 13, 2009. ● METRO/YD

Body found in creek

NEW JERSEY. A woman's body was found in Mantua Creek in Gloucester County yesterday, but reports indicated initially that police believe the woman did not die in a flash flood. ● METRO

In the news

325

Teachers laid off earlier this summer by the Philadelphia School District who will be offered jobs in the next couple of weeks as the district fills 1,335 positions for the upcoming school year. Reportedly, more teachers may also be invited back.

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Old City split on future of nightlife

Neighborhood's restaurant and bar scene playing out this year Wraggling as city weighs zoning reform

A dispute is brewing between Old City's residents and businesses over something very central to the neighborhood's identity: nightlife.

The neighborhood already has a long-held moratorium on new restaurants and bars — unless the city grants a variance or an existing one is replaced in the same location. But the prohibition would be made more restrictive under proposed zoning code reform expected this fall.

"The way the old zoning code worked, you could apply for a variance for food use. It was like a wink and a nod, 'If we like your use, then we'll let you do it,'"

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ National Mechanics

Old City District board member and bar owner Avram Hornik said. "The new code has a variance process, but the standard is so high that it's almost impossible to overcome."

The Old City Civic Association supports the rigid ban. "We have over 80 liquor licenses. How many is enough?" said zoning chair Joe Schiavo. "The reality is we had enough back in 1990."

The split, according to Zoning Code Commission executive director Eva Gladstein, comes down to quality of life concerns.

"[The Old City Civic Association] feels having more would damage their quality of life and the vibrancy of their community," said Gladstein. "The Old City District feels that in order to continue to be a vital neighborhood, they have to be open to investment."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Strike. Verizon workers

▶ Two Verizon workers picketed yesterday afternoon outside a Verizon store at 7110 Ridge Ave.

Red shirts still picket

Picket lines at Verizon stores across the region and country entered their second week yesterday as thousands of workers, represented by national union Communications Workers of America, continued their strike of the telecommunications giant.

Main Line's Ponzi artist pleads guilty

CHESTER COUNTY. A Berwyn man pleaded guilty yesterday to a Ponzi scheme that bilked hundreds of investors out of more than $17 million.

A grand jury indictment in November 2010 charged Robert Stinson, Jr., 56, with stealing from 262 investors in the scheme dating back to 2006. Stinson ran a company called Life's Good, which solicited investments to four real estate hedge funds, promising investors a return of 10 to 16 percent annually. Stinson spent most of the money, however, on vehicles, entertainment, travel, and paying relatives for no-work jobs.

Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 13. Stinson faces a maximum of 329 years in prison. METRO/SDL

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Buffett: Stop coddling the rich

Billionaire Warren Buffett urged U.S. lawmakers to raise taxes on the country's super-rich to help cut the budget deficit, saying such a move will not hurt investments.

"My friends and I have been coddled long enough by a billionaire-friendly Congress. It's time for our government to get serious about shared sacrifice," The 80-year-old "Oracle of Omaha" wrote in an opinion article in The New York Times.

Buffett, one of the world's richest men and chairman of conglomerate Berkshire Hathaway Inc., said his federal tax bill last year was $6,938,744.

"That sounds like a lot of money. But what I paid was only 17.4 percent of my taxable income — and that's actually a lower percentage than was paid by any of the other 20 people in our office. Their tax burdens ranged from 33 percent to 41 percent and averaged 36 percent," he said. REUTERS

Iraq. Violence

▶ An Iraqi man inspects damages at the Mar Afram Syriac Orthodox Church following an explosion in Kirkuk yesterday.

MARWAN IBRAHIM/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Bombs, attacks hit Iraqi cities

Suicide attackers and car bombs hit cities across Iraq yesterday, killing at least 60 people in apparently coordinated assaults authorities blamed on al Qaeda affiliates intent on destabilizing the government. REUTERS

Autism likelier for siblings

Siblings of children with autism have a higher risk of being diagnosed with the disorder than previously believed, according to a new study.

The analysis of more than 600 3-year-olds with an older, autistic sibling found that almost one in five of them had an autism spectrum disorder, which includes Asperger's syndrome and similar conditions.

That suggests pediatricians need to keep an extra eye on those siblings, even as toddlers, because early interventions with therapy and extra support might help keep their symptoms to a minimum, researchers said.

"We know that the brain at young ages is more amenable to change," said study author Wendy Stone of the University of Washington Autism Center in Seattle. REUTERS

110

Autism rates, now estimated at about one in every 110 U.S. kids, probably will not decrease any time soon, the study showed.

Male body found in search at Niagara

BUFFALO, N.Y. A college student who overstepped a safety railing fell into Niagara Falls over the weekend, and searchers looking for her body yesterday found an unidentified male body instead.

The 19-year-old international student from Japan was presumed drowned after she plunged into the fast-flowing waters near the brink of Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian side of the falls at about 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, according to Canadian park police.

Yesterday, she remained missing but searchers instead spotted an unidentified male body at the base of the falls in an area known as the whirlpool, police said. REUTERS

More homeowners choose shorter loans

Many choose to refinance while interest rates are low 37 percent changed 30-year mortgage to 15 or 20 years Should you wait for better?

More homeowners prefer to pay off their mortgages sooner as interest rates have stayed near rock-bottom and weak labor conditions have caused them to reduce their debt loads, a survey showed yesterday.

The current trend in refinancing into shorter loan terms is a stark contrast to the one during the height of the housing boom, when families were taking out bigger mortgages against the rising values of their homes.

Of those homeowners who refinanced a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage during the second quarter, 37 percent moved into a 15-year or 20-year fixed-rate loan. This is the highest since the third quarter of 2003, mortgage finance agency Freddie Mac said.

In the second quarter, interest on the 30-year mortgage averaged 4.65 percent, compared with a 3.84 percent average on 15-year mortgages, the company said.

"It's no wonder we continue to see strong refinance activity into fixed-rate loans," Freddie Mac's chief economist, Frank Nothaft, said in a statement.

Refinancing has comprised the bulk of U.S. mortgage activity since the housing bust that led to the 2007-2009 global financial crisis.

During the second quarter, the refinance share of mortgage applications (versus the share of applications for loans to buy a home) averaged 70 percent, Freddie Mac said. REUTERS

Now or later?

Should consumers jump to refinance or buy a new home? Or should they wait for a new bottom?

▶ Now is the time to act, says Alex Stenback, a blogger and mortgage banker. "Don't get lulled into a sense of complacency over what the Fed says about interest rates. They can move up, and this window can shut much faster than people imagine," he cautions.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Obama meets the locals in Minnesota.

Obama talks jobs on tour

President Barack Obama blasted Republicans over taxes yesterday as he launched a bus tour of the U.S. Midwest to tout his job-growth strategy and distance himself from anger toward Washington that could dent his 2012 re-election hopes.

The three-day trip takes him to Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois, states he won in the 2008 presidential election, although Iowa recently has been seeing a lot of Republicans vying to battle him for the White House next year.

The White House says Obama is on a listening tour to hear from Americans about the economy and talk about how to boost jobs and hiring. REUTERS

Google gets hands on Motorola cell patents

Search firm doubles down on mobile business with acquisition

Google announced its acquisition of mobile phone maker Motorola Mobility Holdings.

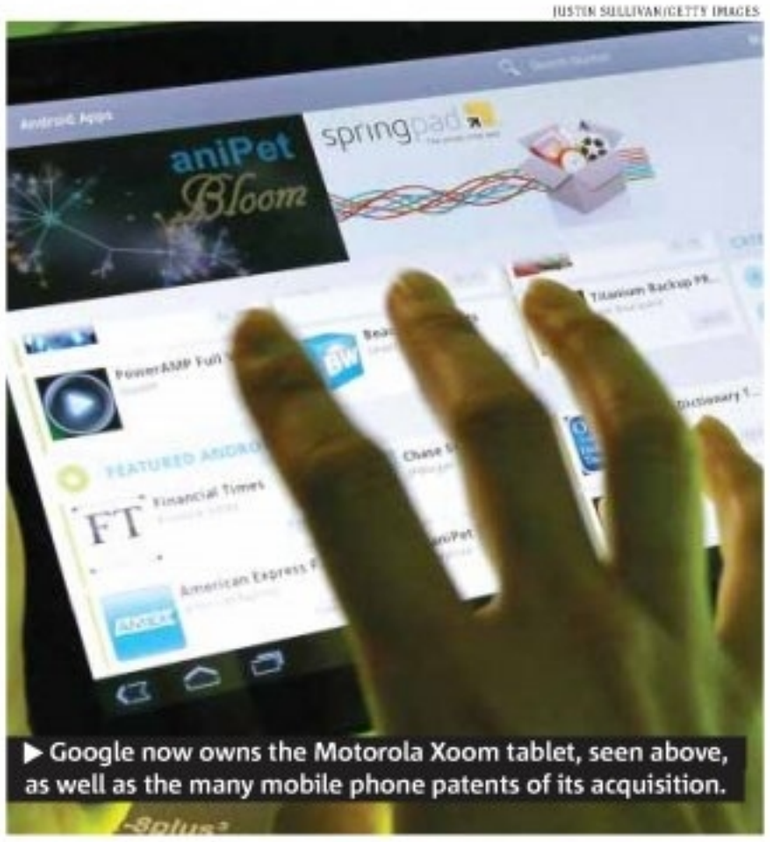
Google's biggest foray into hardware comes weeks after a failed attempt to buy patents from bankrupt Nortel, and gives it an intellectual property library in wireless telephony to wage war on Apple and Microsoft.

But in buying Motorola, the Internet giant risks alienating the hardware partners that license its free Android software. Google CEO Larry Page sought to calm the jitters by stressing yesterday that Android will remain open to all.

$12.5B
The Motorola acquisition marks Google's biggest deal ever — $12.5 billion cash.

After being shut out of Nortel deal, Google Chief Legal Officer David Drummond wrote a blog post accusing Microsoft, Apple and Oracle of colluding to buy up patents and curtail growth of its Android mobile operating system. Page says Motorola's strong patent portfolio will protect Android from "anti-competitive threats." REUTERS

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Google now owns the Motorola Xoom tablet, seen above, as well as the many mobile phone patents of its acquisition.

Thieves nab costly hotel art

LOS ANGELES. Investigators were examining hotel surveillance video for clues to the disappearance of a drawing by Rembrandt from a private exhibit near Los Angeles, officials said.

The pen-and-ink drawing known as "The Judgment" by the 17th century Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn vanished from the Ritz-Carlton Marina del Rey while the curator was "distracted" for about 15 minutes, according to an L.A. sheriff's spokesman. REUTERS

Memorial as fair reopens

INDIANAPOLIS. The Indiana State Fair reopened yesterday with a half-hour service remembering those who died following the collapse of its main concert stage over the weekend in heavy wind.

The disaster, which killed five people, occurred on Saturday night, and the fair had been shut down on Sunday.

"There was a hero every 10 feet Saturday night," Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels said at the service.
REUTERS

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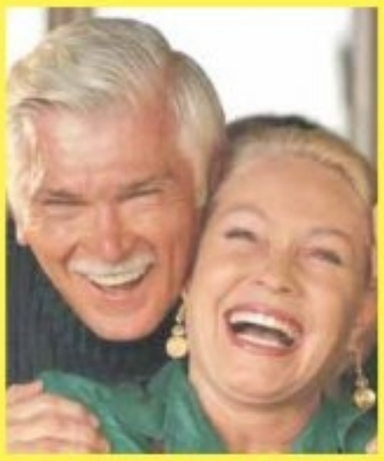

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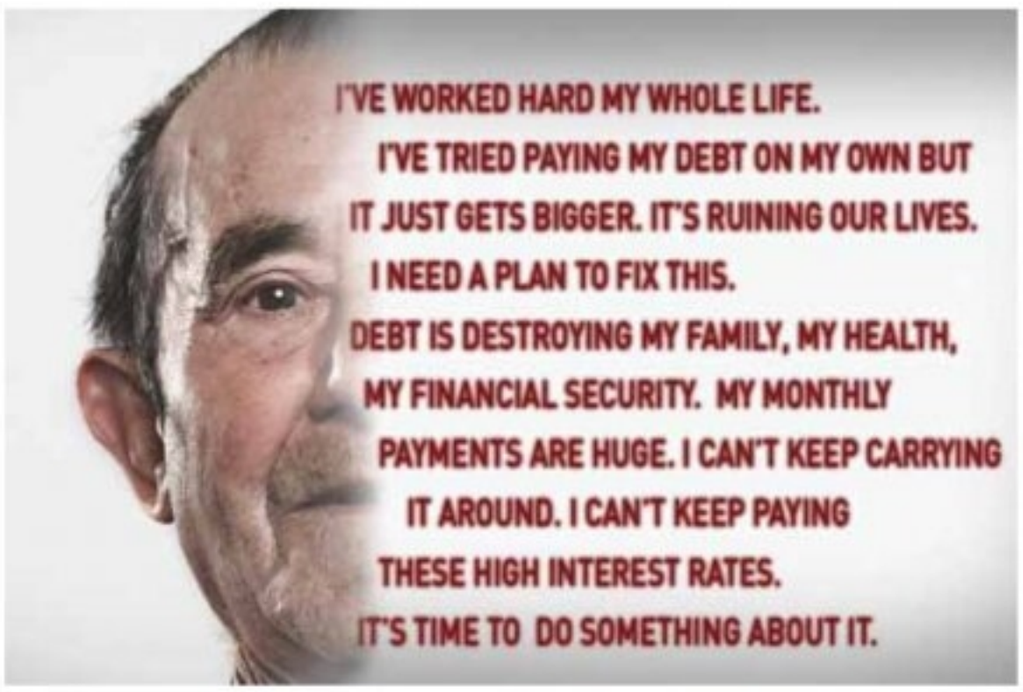
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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Mindy Kaling is worried about Leo, Jonah Hill isn't up on current events, Rita Wilson is having trouble finding balance and Steve Martin just can't enjoy himself.

▶ **@mindykaling**
I really don't want Bar Rafaeli to get back together with Leonardo diCaprio again if this Blake Lively thing blows over.

▶ **@JonahHill**
I'm in London any cool stuff I should do?

▶ **@RitaWilson**
Working vs. tweeting? I forget to tweet when I work!

▶ **@SteveMartin**
ToGo: Playing computer chess with myself, but finding it hard to climb on desk, straddle monitor and look down.

Mindy Kaling

Hudson uses her power for good

It's great to see celebrity power used for good, especially in the face of tragedy. On Sunday, Oscar-winning actress and Grammy-winning singer **Jennifer Hudson**, along with her sister, **Julia Hudson**, hosted the first ever Hatch Day on behalf of the Julian D. King Gift Foundation at the De La Salle Institute in Chicago. If you remember, **Julian King** was Hudson's 7-year-old nephew who was killed in late 2008 by **William Balfour**, Julia's estranged husband. Balfour also murdered Hudson's mother and brother. At the event, held on what would have been King's 10th birthday, 2,000 Chicago students received school supplies and got to create their own custom backpacks. And that's not all: Hudson will be featured in robocalls to 285,000 Chicago public school students, reminding them that school starts Sept. 6. "It feels good to give back to children, as he was a child," Hudson told ABC News. "And also to help inspire your kids — that's one of the things that helped me growing up, to know that, 'Wow, if this is in my presence, then I can achieve and I can do it, too.'"

DANIEL BOCZARSKI/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jennifer Hudson, left, poses with her sister, Julia Hudson, and a photo of her slain nephew, Julian D. King, during the first Julian D. King Gift Foundation Hatch Day celebration at De La Salle Institute in Chicago.

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DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

Tara Reid's whirlwind weekend

Tara Reid's romantic timeline on Twitter is awesome. On Saturday, the actress first announced that she was engaged. Most media outlets assumed her fiance was Danish businessman **Michael Lillelund**, who Reid had been dating since last year. Two hours later, she updated her status to read: "Just got married in Greece. I love being a wife." But it turns out Lillelund wasn't the groom after all. Reid had to get on Twitter to clear it up: "His name is **Zack Kehayov**" she wrote. Life & Style got their hands on the wedding photo. "She can't wait to get back and celebrate with her friends and family," a friend tells the mag. Knowing Reid's past clothing malfunctions, let's be thankful the nuptials didn't turn into "niptials."

Talking points

See ya later, Kate Gosselin

Kate Gosselin to get a real job? It certainly looks that way as her days as a reality TV star are numbered. "TLC has decided not to renew another season of 'Kate Plus 8,'" a network rep told PEOPLE in a statement. "By the end of this season, 'Kate Plus 8' will have hit the 150 episode mark (including 'Jon & Kate Plus 8'); an exceptional milestone. TLC hopes to check in with Kate and the family periodically with specials in the future."

GETTY IMAGES

▶ It's time to write her off.

'Lone Ranger' stays alone

Looks like **Johnny Depp** won't be riding off into the sunset in a big-screen remake of "The Lone Ranger," as Disney pulled the plug on the project after producers were unable to bring down the $250 million budget, according to Deadline. Depp, who was going to play Tonto, is reportedly still optimistic something will happen.

Reese Witherspoon

Witherspoon's wild side?

Reese Witherspoon might not be such a good girl after all. The actress showed off her beach body — and some new body art — while vacationing in Hawaii recently, according to Us Weekly. The bikini-clad Oscar-winner was spotted beachside with husband **Jim Toth** on Sunday sporting a large tattoo of a star flanked by two birds prominently displayed on her abdomen.

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Red carpets, book signings and more

1: Soulja Boy, flanked by fans, performed at the mstyle Lab Concert Tour at Macy's on Saturday in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

2: David Beckham took the perfect date to VH1's Do Something Awards on Sunday — his son, Brooklyn.

3: Amy Poehler also attended the Do Something Awards and looked lovely in yellow while doing so.

4: Jason Momoa, star of the new "Conan The Barbarian," popped up at the film's European premiere at the 02 Arena Sunday in London on Sunday.

5: Yes, she is now an author: Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi signed copies of her book "A Shore Thing"at Barnes & Noble on Saturday in Paramus, N.J.

6: Ashley Tisdale and her new nose attended the Paley Center For Media's "PaleyFest Family 2011" on Saturday in Beverly Hills, Calif.

1: LARRY MARANO/GETTY IMAGES
2: KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE
3: FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGE
4: IAN GAVAN/GETTY IMAGES
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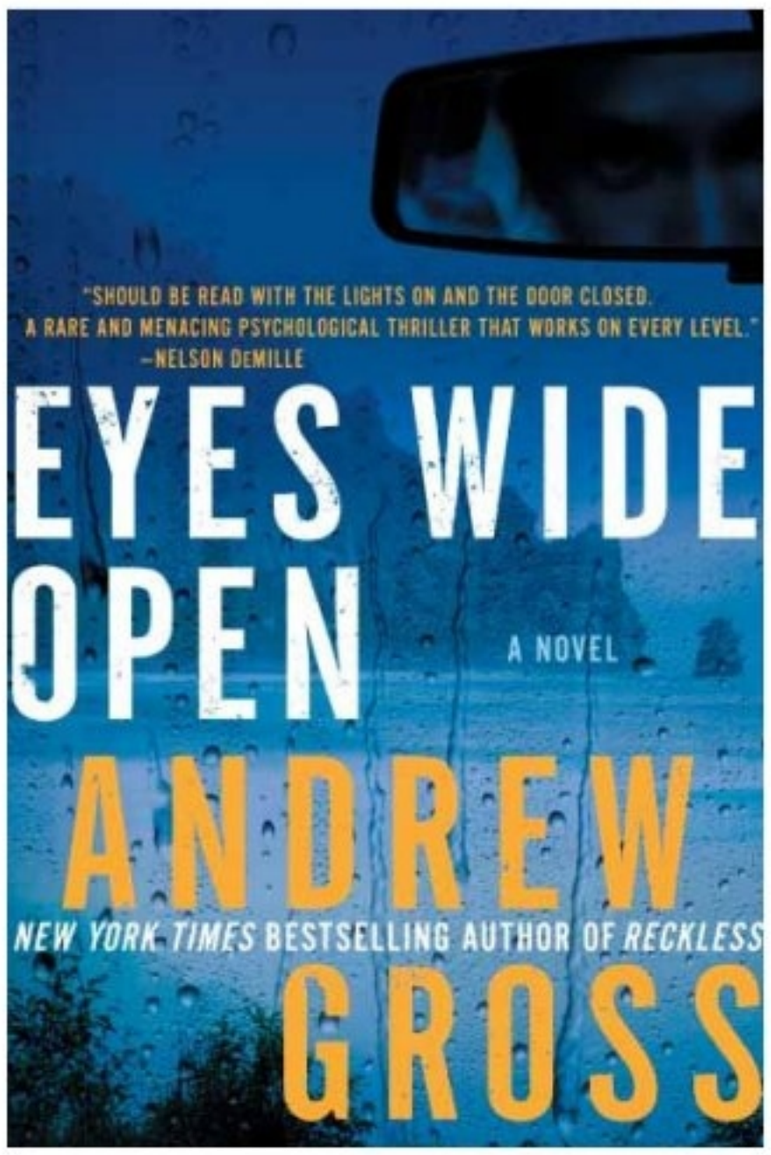
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A few suspenseful summer stories

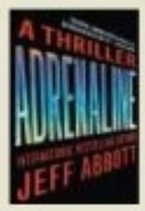
- Thrillers that will add some kick to the waning days of summer
- A look at the most nail-biting reads released in the past few months

'Eyes Wide Open'
Andrew Gross
"Eyes Wide Open" proves that you don't need an CIA operative/detective/political conspiracy to craft an unsettling murder mystery. Gross delves into the world of cults, suicides and tragic family circumstances to weave this thriller about a murderous hippie clan and a suspicious suicide by a young man.

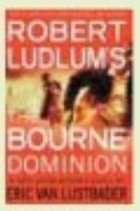
DOROTHY ROBINSON
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

'Shut Your Eyes Tight'
John Verdon
Verdon burst onto the thriller scene last summer with his debut novel, "Think of a Number," which introduced readers to NYPD detective Dave Gurney. In this sequel, set a year later, Gurney must solve the high-profile murder of a young bride who was killed at her own wedding reception.

'Adrenaline'
Jeff Abbott
Abbott's stylized prose makes him a thriller writer for people who don't necessarily love the genre. "Adrenaline" follows ex-CIA agent Sam Capra who must go rogue save his kidnapped wife (who also happens to be a suspect in the bombing of the British headquarters of the CIA) and child.



'Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Dominion'
Eric Van Lustbader
Lustbader continues the Bourne franchise (creator Robert Ludlum died in 2001) in this updated series. In his latest, "The Bourne Dominion," Bourne tries to trust Boris Karpov, the head of Russia's most feared spy agency, to help him track down a group of terrorists.



'Spycatcher'
Matthew Dunn
Dunn isn't just an author, he also happens to be an ex-M16 agent. In his debut novel of espionage and revenge, Dunn introduces a new character by the name of Will Cochrane, a rebellious M16 agent who must bring down the world's most wanted international terrorist mastermind any way he can.

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Cast of 'Glee' hits the road

- A new concert film captures the cast touring America and Europe between seasons of the TV show
- How they get in character for a live audience

ADAM ROSE

▶ The "Glee" kids rock out in concert for "Glee: The 3D Concert Movie." Read the full profile online at www.metro.us.

For most television actors, the months between filming seasons of a show is a time for vacation or squeezing in film roles. For the "Glee" kids, not so much. Instead, they hit the road to tide fans over until new episodes hit the air. And now the cast makes a jump to the big screen with "Glee: The 3D Concert Movie," a best-of mix of the stadium tour that took them across the U.S. and to Europe during their summer off.

While the live tour isn't a new thing for the "Glee" cast — they did the same last summer — the experience of playing to 20,000 fans a night isn't something they find easy to get used to. "It is different because on a set it's closed off. I think crowds are a little more forgiving than your script supervisor," says Darren Criss, who plays Chris Colfer's private school-attending boyfriend Blaine. "There's this huge fan presence that's undeniable — but when it's on social media, it isn't as immediately tangible because it's inherently disconnected via a computer screen," he explains. "So to experience all these people in real time is a pretty cathartic moment."

The concert film also features some cute backstage interviews with the cast, done in character — an acting exercise that proved more difficult for some, it turns out. "It's hard. I definitely blew it a couple of times," Criss says. "I was in San Francisco making shout-outs to my parents, and Blaine has probably never even been to San Francisco. I did an interview en route to the bathroom once. It was this very sort of surprised thing. I was supposed to be Blaine, but I think I was just Darren trying to get to the bathroom."

Quoted

"I had to be in character, I had to be. You just have to leave yourself at the door sometimes, because there's no way I could do 'Single Ladies' every night. I could not."
CHRIS COLFER

In one especially humorous scene, Lea Michele's Rachel character is told that her idol, Barbra Streisand, is in the audience, which renders her speechless. Michele admits real life isn't that far off. "I did get to meet her," she says. "I held it together and cried when she walked away."

Backstage interviews aside, Michele says keeping in character wasn't a priority for her. "I feel like I did a nice blend of Rachel and of Lea while I was onstage performing. We are our characters; but when we walk offstage, we are definitely ourselves."

And for Colfer, slipping into Kurt's persona is something of a safety precaution. "I had to be in character, I had to be," he insists. "You just have to leave yourself at the door sometimes, because there's no way I could do 'Single Ladies' every night. I could not. That's when you just leave yourself behind."

NED EHRBAR
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myentertainment

TV watch list

GEORGE LANGE

▶ London and Kelly tell us "What Not To Wear."

'What Not To Wear'

REALITY. Just because you work for the rich and famous doesn't mean you dress like them. The assistant to Jenny McCarthy and Cheryl Burke of "Dancing with the Stars" gets the Clinton Kelly/Stacy London ambush. **Season premiere, 9 p.m., TLC**

'Cupcake Wars'

REALITY. Four bakers are tasked with creating cupcakes for Comic-Con's Masquerade Party. We're imagining little edible R2D2s already! **8 p.m., Food Network** ● AMBER RAY

The party don't stop tomorrow

● LMFAO is teaming up with kindred spirit Ke$ha for a rowdy show on the river ● What the 'Party Rock Anthem' duo is like when they're not performing

Whether the members of LMFAO are getting spray-painted before shows, incorporating giant blow-up zebras into their act or drenching their audience in champagne, it's safe to say that life has been a nonstop party for the hip-hop/electro duo of DJs Redfoo and SkyBlu.

Redfoo is Skyblu's uncle, and music is in their blood: Berry Gordy, founder of the Motown record label, is Redfoo's father and SkyBlu's grandfather.

"We grew up around a lot of parties, so I think that really added to our personality," says SkyBlu while backstage at the Billboard Summer Blowout Concert in New York City. "So when we make electro music, we make dance music for the club, I think that comes through. And like 'Foo says, Motown was dance music."

Redfoo says he has learned a thing or two from Motown's business approach: "They would teach artists how to walk, how to talk, how to make love to the fans. See, we break some of those rules, because they would say, 'In an interview, you know, don't drop your pants and start doing the freak.' But me, I've got to do it."

With that he drops trou to reveal a pair of shiny gold briefs.

Like every other family, the pair quarrels every now and then. What does the duo who shouts the word "shots" more than 30 times in the chorus of their 2009 single do to settle scores?

"What we usually do is bet shots," says Redfoo.

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Catch LMFAO with Ke$ha and Spank Rock tomorrow night at the Festival Pier at Penn's Landing. For tickets, call 800-745-3000 or visit www.ticketmaster.com

Ke$ha is who she is

As if the two members of LMFAO weren't wild enough on their own, they're now on tour with Ke$ha, which has certainly provided plenty of further amusement. But is Ke$ha as crazy she appears to be? Let her antics with a cow heart be your guide.

▶ "If you're biting a heart onstage and throwing it in the crowd, then blood is all over your mouth, I mean that's pretty crazy," says Redfoo.

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Butea Superba - One branch has 3 leaves and the flowers are of a yellowish orange color. It's long roots are similar to the roots of a yam and matures to about 8 to 9 inches. When the root is cut, it leaks red sap. Scientist have studied both the sap and the root fibers to isolate the male potency powers of this beautiful plant.According to a 2003 article in the Asian Journal Andrology the preparations of Butea are for male erectile dysfunction. It is affectionately referred to as herbal Viagra.

"My husband started taking 112 Degrees because he was experiencing performance irregularities. After taking 112 Degrees, he has no problems." Christy, AZ

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Health professionals have noted that the "oddly-shaped root" may produce benefits such as a significant increase in the weight of the testes, higher sperm counts and a greater release of male sex hormones, which explains the plant's reputation for increasing men's sexuality. This translates into an overall better experience.

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Nerd's the word

Blogger Roxana Altamirano of Nerdboyfriend.com makes everything from Woody Allen's trademark frames to Adam Scott's boyish threads current and accessible But you might not want to break out your pocket protector just yet

For Roxana Altamirano, the underdog is king. As founder of Nerdboyfriend.com, she transformed her admiration of geeky male celebrities into a successful online style guide. The blog features iconic male portraits — from classics like Salvador Dalí and Ernest Hemingway to contempories such as Elvis Costello and Adrien Brody — with links to stores where her followers can re-create the look du jour. "It's all about ideas," says Altamirano. We caught up with the L.A. resident to discuss what it takes to win her heart and what she'll be dressing her boyfriend in this fall.

MITCHELL HAASETH/NBC
▶ Adam Scott as Ben Wyatt on "Parks and Recreation"

"The most popular [posts] are the classics. And whoever's hot right now, like Adam Scott. The whole community gets excited for guys they actually find hot, not just ironically hot."
ALTAMIRANO, ON HER BLOG POSTS

Why are nerds such sex symbols?
The word "nerd" got associated with the blog by accident. I wanted to start a photo blog posting images of the male icons I was in love with. I realized they weren't the hippest or best-looking guys, but they still had a unique style. "Nerd" has different meanings: to some it's glasses and high pants, and for others it's someone who's passionate about what they do.

You recently posted an image of A Tribe Called Quest to the site. In most circles, they're not considered nerdy.
I actually get heat from people. They have their own definition of "nerd" and my posts don't fit that. But for the most part, people understand it. A nerd boyfriend is just a guy who owns his style. It's kinda nerdy if you don't necessarily wear what's on the runways. It's no longer about wearing Guess jeans cause they're the most expensive, it's about wearing Guess jeans because no one else does anymore.

Who was your first celebrity nerd crush?
Indiana Jones. He's not very nerdy but …

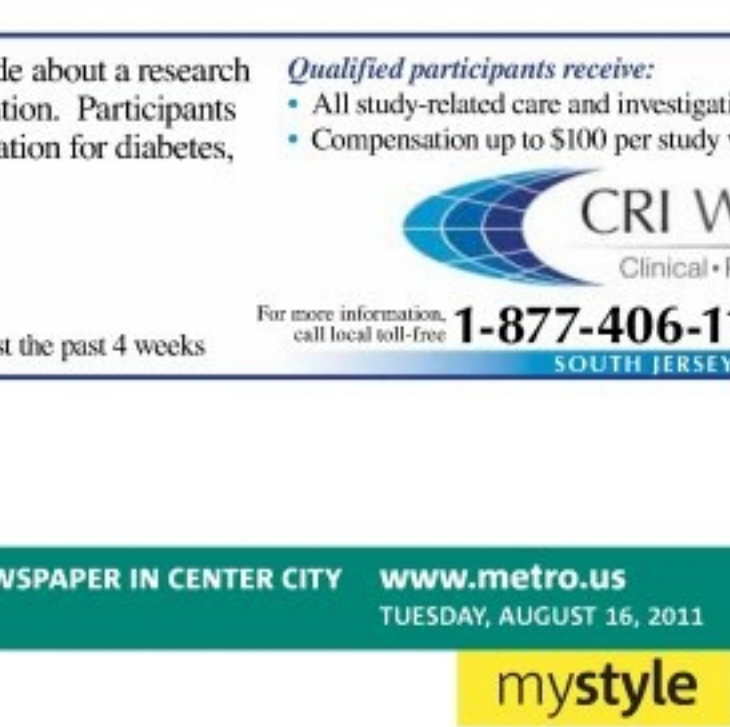
But he was a professor.
Right! And I became enamored with Jim Henson, too, but not because I had posters of him on my wall. It's just the idea of him.

Have you met any crushes?
The only one I've met and posted is Andrew W.K. Also, man, I post a lot of people who've passed, but I wouldn't mind meeting John Turturro, David Bowie or Ian McKellan.

What are some essentials you like for guys this fall?
I stick to the classics. I like button downs — light pink and blue oxfords, the schoolboy type. I'm also a fan of waiting-for-a-flood pants. Not like Tom Brown or anything, not like man capris. I think TOMS are sexy. And I like when guys carry canvas totes. Those will do the trick.

GINA ANGELOTTI
gina.angelotti@metro.us

Q&A


CONTRIBUTED
▶ Roxana Altamirano

Do you dress your boyfriend?

We're really not stylish people. We just lounge in sweatpants a lot. And now I've made the habit of going out in sweatpants. [Laughs] But no, I don't need to help him. He's actually very stylish on his own. The problem is there's just no time to put a lot of effort into it.

www.metro.us
WWW.METRO.US/STYLE FOR ALTAMIRANO'S FALL STYLE PICKS FOR WOMEN

Her fall style picks for men

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2 **Standard Issue Utility Chino, $158,** www.apolisglobal.com

3 **TOMS Burgundy Houndstooth Men's Classics, $54,** www.toms.com

4 **JCrew Saturdays Esquina oxford shirt, $98,** www.jcrew.com

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myeducation guide

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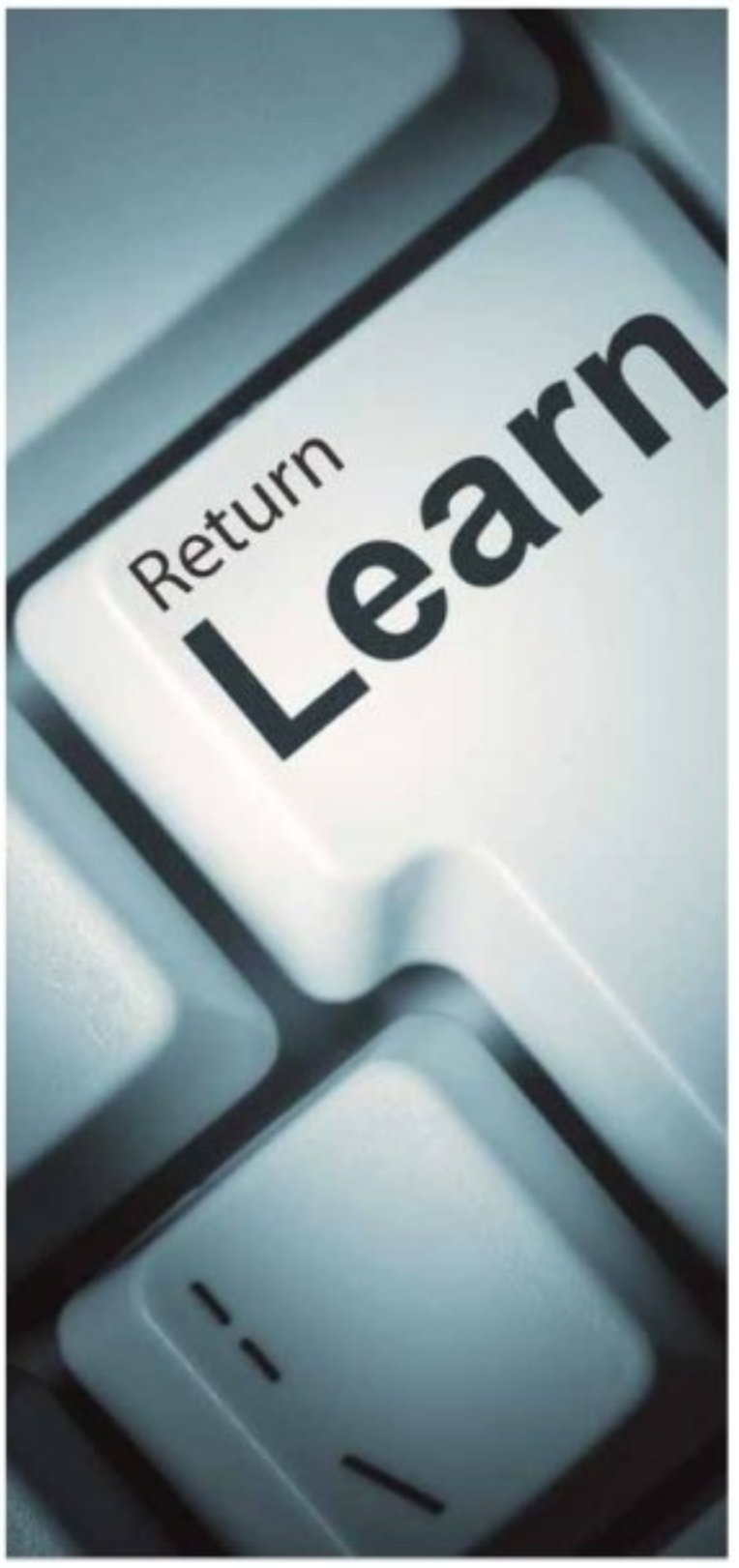

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"We do a lot of work around scholarships," she adds. "So much scholarship money goes untapped. We help people identify possible sources and apply for them." Another source of money is employee tuition benefits. "People don't know about these, but they can really help."

One of the program's most important functions is to serve as a cheerleader, though. "People know what they want to do [and] how to do it, but sometimes they need a little push, a little support," Stephens says. "We provide that support."

JUDY WEIGHTMAN

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myeducation guide

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Careers: The career services office will help you find internships and jobs while you're in school or when you're graduating. Visit for job listings, resume help, practice interviews and more. These services are generally also available to alumni.

Health and wellness: The size of the student health center varies according to the size of the school; but even small schools generally have registered nurses who can treat illness and injuries. Nutrition, wellness and drug abuse information is also available. To stay active, check out the fitness center for individual workouts or join an intramural program for sports.

Counseling: Whether you're fighting with a roommate or handling more serious problems, you can seek one-on-one sessions, ongoing groups or one-time workshops at the counseling center. Check your school's website under "campus life" or "student services."

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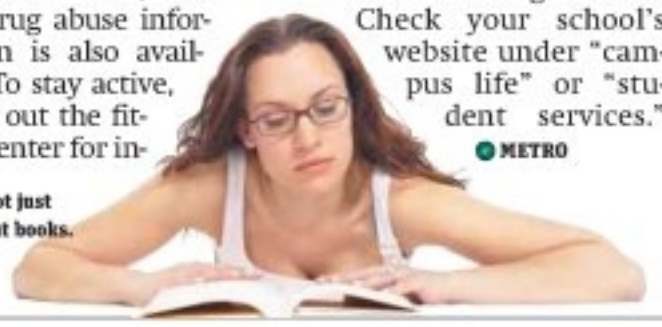
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KIM GAVIN, STUDYING ART EDUCATION AT MOORE COLLEGE OF ART, PHILADELPHIA

"Time is a tough thing to come across when taking classes while working. I tried my best not to overload my schedule so I could still enjoy my social life in an effort to keep my sanity. My best advice for money is to take advantage of employer benefits to the best of one's abilities: discounts on services, tuition reimbursements, etc. Not all jobs offer these perks but I take full advantage of the ones that my employer does."

PRESTON BRODERICK, STUDYING TRANSPERSONAL PSYCHOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Quoted

"Time management: Weekly and sometimes daily, make a schedule and stick to it. Be flexible and keep pressing on. If no one tells you this, I will: You can do it!"

ETHEL RICHARDS, STUDYING MIS, ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND GLOBAL PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AT PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY

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LINDSEY HOFFLICH, RECENTLY COMPLETED A MASTER'S IN EDUCATION/READING SPECIALIST AT EDINBORO UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

"If you are working full time, find a program that is flexible with your schedule, like online classes that are asynchronous or Saturday classes. Apply for any scholarships that the school or other professional organizations might be offering. It's hard to work and go to school at the same time, especially if you haven't been to school in a while, so plan out your week ahead of time. Set time apart for only homework, and do your best to minimize distractions. Motivation can be difficult so have a loved one be your cheerleader to keep your spirits up and your momentum going."

LINDSAY CUMMINGS, RECENTLY COMPLETED AN M.S. IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE WITH A CONCENTRATION IN YOUTH SERVICES AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY

"Time management is crucial. You don't need a fancy smartphone, but find a method that works and keep using it."

GREG SWENSON, STUDYING BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

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Top five

Classes (almost) too cool for school

Philosophy ... poly sci ... calculus ... BORING! Spice up your schedule this semester with one of these interesting courses that you won't believe are actually available. We guarantee you'll want to do your homework and show up on time. Here's eight real college courses that break the mold:

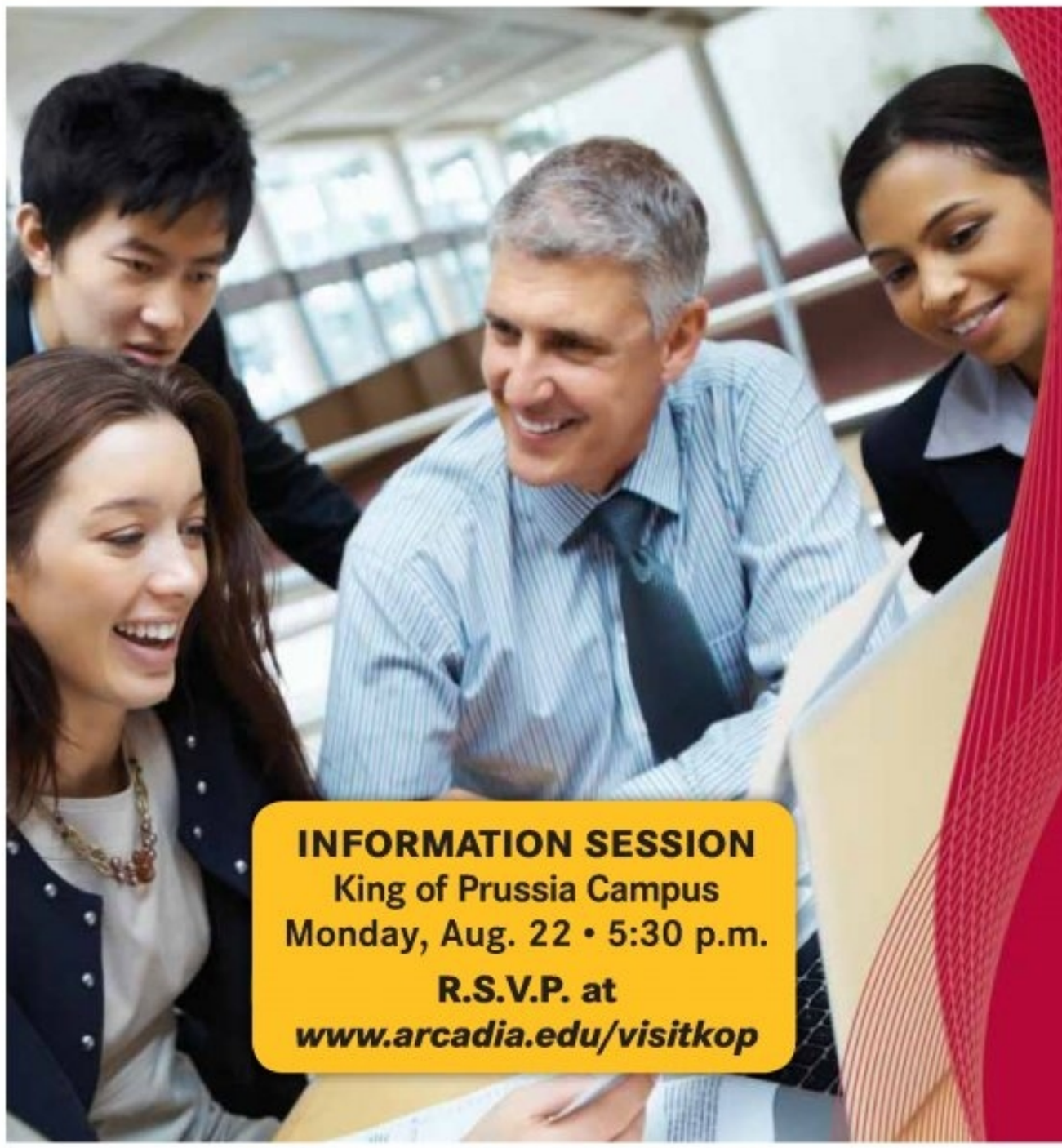
1 Directing with James Franco: The cliche of crushing on your professor is finally acceptable in this class offered at NYU's Kanbar Institute of Film and Television this fall. The Hollywood heartthrob will sharing what he knows best with about 10 to 12 students. Extra credit if you show up in a Green Goblin costume!

2 Alien Sex: Extraterrestrials, martians, demons and vampires need love, too; and in this course at the University of Rochester, you'll find out how they do it. The class explores gender in old and new fantasy.

3 Elvish: If you need to ask an elf for directions after getting lost in an enchanted forest, will you be prepared? You will if you take this course at the University of Wisconsin, offering a complete overview of the language originated by "The Lord of the Rings." Mandarin is so 2010.

4 Zombies! The Living Dead in Literature, Film and Culture: Learn about flesh-eating creatures of the night in this course offered at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Study zombie flicks with an "international zombie expert" as your instructor.

5 The Unbearable Whiteness of Barbie: Race and Popular Culture in the U.S.: Students at Occidental College can pick apart the plastic prima donna for invading society with unrealistic standards about women's bodies. The course also looks into scientific racism in the making of Barbie. And you thought she was just a doll. ● CASSANDRA GARRISON



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Letters

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This lyricist is not illiterate

RE: "THE GAME INSTRUCTS: PRANK THA POLICE?": Every morning I grab the Metro and scan through quickly in efforts to keep myself busy and informed during my 20-minute ride downtown. This morning I was offended and disgusted by your choice to generalize and reference rappers as illiterate. Not sure how a prank equates to illiteracy. I guess I'm wondering if that same adjective would have been used for a Josh Meyer or Chris Martin? **PORSHA SUMMERVILLE, VIA E-MAIL**

Tax money not for the people

RE: "IT'S THE HAVE VS. THE HALVES": Printing $16 trillion and borrowing 43 cents of every dollar only destroys the value of the dollar. The poor and middle class will always suffer disproportionately when this tactic is used. Money raised by tax increases will not be used to pay debt, it will be spent on government expansion. **KELLY DONNOE, VIA E-MAIL**

Why not start acting our age?

If we, the adults, keep feeding a child a daily allowance of self-hate, they will boomerang that hate onto an unsuspecting society that will have dire consequences on every citizen in the Republic. **ANTHONY P. JOHNSON, JUNIATA**

Capitalism is unsustainable

No, it's not the Republicrats; no it's not the liberals, it's not the conservatives and it ain't the gays or the feminists or the immigrants or the Muslim extremists or the rich or the poor or the voters or the morons — or even Obama. It's all of that and then some. It's our capitalist system that is falling apart right now in front of our eyes. **SUZY SANDOR, VIA E-MAIL**

Not enough to just boo Obama

The recent debates waged among Republican and Tea Party candidates have tainted the air. Their common chant is "stop Obama, stop Obama", like a cult straight out of a horror flick. Do they not feel that America has greater issues to deal with — like the economy, jobs and so on? If so, it would be nice to hear them talk about their plans to solve these problems for a change, instead of repeating the same old hypnotic anti-Obama mantras. **JONATHAN PERRY, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** This is likely to be the day when you'll make up your mind to call the shots on your life, especially if you've been disenchanted of late.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** New avenues for expression will be found for furthering a secret ambition you've been nurturing for far too long. If you are getting those signals now, act on them right away.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Don't hesitate to take advantage of any opportunity you get to become involved with a new social group, especially if it's made up of interesting people.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Respond to any urges you get to begin elevating your ambitions, no matter how big or small. You couldn't find a better time to focus on objectives that motivate you to move up the ladder.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** New knowledge you'll begin acquiring will have a more meaningful and immediate good effect on your life. This new cycle couldn't be better for learning what's important.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Through direct or indirect developments, you could be put onto something that has larger profitable qualities than you've ever experienced.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** An arrangement or agreement that you enter into will benefit all parties involved and have substantially more chances for success than you've ever experienced previously.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** The way you conduct yourself regarding your work is being analyzed by someone who could make your life substantially better. Continue to put forth your best efforts.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Watch out, because today's aspect could stimulate your appreciation for all things, making it possible for you to see something special in someone and fall head over heels in love.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Both endings and beginnings could occur out of nowhere. What was unproductive in your life could suddenly be replaced with fresh hopes.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** It behooves you to try to see life from a new and/or more constructive angle. If you do, you will view things as more than mere impediments; they'll become new opportunities.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** You are likely to place greater emphasis on producing larger earnings. These new urges will immensely help you create new ways to produce a fatter wallet. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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15 Sonic bounce
16 Tiny speck
17 Mural base
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50 Slickest
52 Ruthless
54 Needing a rinse
58 Mrs. Shakespeare
59 Round tent
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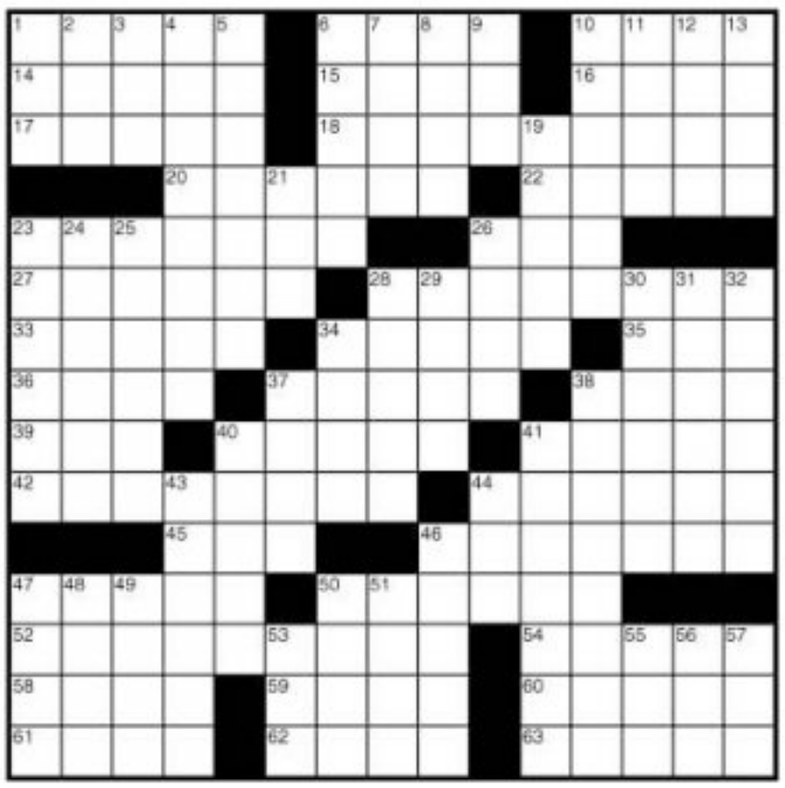
61 At close quarters
62 See
63 Expensive



Down
1 Crone
2 Tribute in verse
3 Mild interjections
4 Stances
5 Reconnoitered
6 Send, as to a specialist
7 Realty unit
8 Climb a rope
9 Harley, to some
10 Paper in chem lab
11 Hawkeye state
12 Blend
13 License plates
19 Garden shed items
21 Crayola choice
23 Title of respect
24 Exist naturally
25 Caregivers
26 Muddy
28 Stylish auto
29 Wishes one hadn't
30 Lubing
31 Belgium neighbor
32 Like cobras
34 Paris cop
37 Expert
38 Indicate (2 wds.)
40 What Poe's raven did
41 Makes before taxes
43 Type of cracker
44 Game or season opener
46 Amusing
47 __ __ do that!
48 Kind of buggy
49 Sight from Messina
50 Cash substitutes
51 Find fault
53 Blended whiskey
55 Homer Simpson's dad
56 Chart shape
57 Nope opposite

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

B	A	K	E	D	■	D	E	F	T	■	C	R	T	S
A	G	I	L	E	■	E	R	A	S	■	L	A	R	K
H	A	M	M	E	R	L	O	C	K	■	E	P	E	E
S	R	S	■	P	U	L	S	E	■	N	A	I	V	E
■	■	■	P	E	N	S	■	■	B	A	N	D	I	T
T	H	I	R	S	T	■	H	O	S	S	■	■	■	■
R	E	S	E	T	■	D	O	G	M	A	T	I	C	■
Y	A	L	E	■	Q	U	A	R	T	■	U	R	A	L
■	L	A	N	G	U	A	G	E	■	C	R	O	F	T
■	■	■	■	L	I	L	Y	■	P	A	N	N	E	D
T	H	R	E	A	D	■	■	A	I	L	S	■	■	■
H	O	U	N	D	■	A	N	T	S	Y	■	S	K	I
E	T	R	E	■	C	R	A	B	A	P	P	L	E	S
T	E	A	M	■	P	A	P	A	■	S	H	E	E	P
A	L	L	Y	■	O	B	E	Y	■	O	D	D	L	Y

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Heart of Texas

Stone honored

The Texas Rangers are erecting a statue dedicated to the memory of deceased fan Shannon Stone.

Stone was killed on July 7 when he fell 25 feet while trying to catch a foul ball for his son.

The statue will be titled, "Rangers Fans" and placed at the home plate entrance to Rangers Ballpark before the start of the 2012 season, according to the Rangers.

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Opinion

ANGELO CATALDI
THE VOICE OF THE PHILLY SPORTS FAN

GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS OVERDUE

In this time of unprecedented triumph, we all should stand and offer an ovation to the people who changed the culture. Rise together, please, and thank the Phillies — for our first title in a quarter-century, and so much more.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send submissions to letters@metro.us.

The Phils have transformed our city into a spawning ground for winners, so much so that we were voted the capital of the sports world in a recent ESPN poll. The Phillies are the best team in baseball, and the best in their history. The Eagles are the talk of football, suddenly hell-bent on winning their first championship in 51 years. And the Flyers are crazed to end their own 36-year drought.

Quoted

"The clamor for Phillies tickets is equal to or greater than the demand for Eagles tickets."

We have the Phillies to thank for this rebirth of spirit. Just when the other teams seemed secure in their contender status, the Phils asked more from themselves, and we all held a parade in 2008 to celebrate that new commitment. They made themselves so good, so captivating, that the other teams have had no choice but to try harder.

During their free-agency frenzy, the Eagles have scoffed at the notion that their new aggressiveness was fueled by the Phillies. My follow-up question would be: Are you human? The Birds owned this city for a generation, and we're supposed to believe they wouldn't rebel at losing No. 1 status?

President Joe Banner even had the audacity last week to suggest that the Red Sox are a model for the Eagles because his beloved hometown Bostonians "have a great team and they still go out and get great players." You mean, like the Phillies acquiring Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee, Roy Oswalt and Hunter Pence?

There are windows at the NovaCare Complex, and the view shows that more fans than ever are wearing red, not green. More of us than ever are talking baseball, not football. The clamor for Phillies tickets is equal to or greater than the demand for Eagles tickets.

And that's why the Phillies deserve a show of our gratitude, for new Eagles like Nnamdi Asomugha, Cullen Jenkins and Jason Babin. For Ilya Bryzgalov, Jaromir Jagr and all of the other arrivals during the Flyers' housecleaning. And don't forget Joshua Harris, the soon-to-be owner of the Sixers. After what the Phillies have done here, who wouldn't want to own one of our city's sports franchises?

In the three decades I have lived in this amazing city, I have never experienced the joys of the past few months. Every day seems to bring a new victory for the Phillies, and new hope for at least one of the other teams. It is the best time to be a Philadelphia sports fan.

That's why I'm standing and applauding who made it possible. Thank you, Phillies.

*– **Angelo Cataldi** is host of 610 WIP's Morning Show, which airs weekdays 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.*

Reid's biggest challenge

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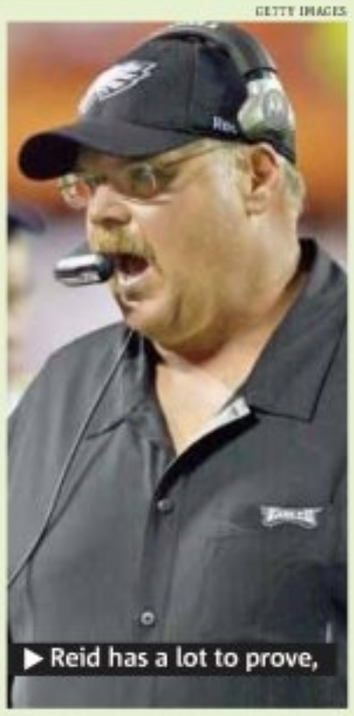

▶ Reid has a lot to prove,

Now that the front office has done everything it can to build a champion, the next big question facing the Eagles is not so easily answered. Is there any way Andy Reid can screw this up?

The first hint that there may be trouble ahead came on the first drive of the preseason, when Reid challenged a near-touchdown by Jason Avant. Right after Eagles Television Network flak Don Tollefson chirped that Reid was in "midseason challenge form," the refs ruled that it was no catch. Midseason form, indeed.

Reid is abysmal at basic elements of coaching — timeouts, challenges, and short-yardage play-calls, to name a few. At the same time, he's among the best at taking new players and assimilating them into his system, a skill that will prove especially beneficial after the roster shake-up.

Whether Reid's ability to make his new players comfortable will outweigh his obvious shortcomings on the sideline remains to be seen. But he should know that the stakes are much higher now than at any point in his 13-year tenure.

If we know anything about the Eagles' hierarchy, it is that they spend their money very reluctantly. The first question they're going to ask if we don't have a parade is who was most responsible for the failure. In short, Reid could be facing the end of his long reign. And that's one decision Reid won't be able to challenge.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ and so does Manuel!

Blaming Charlie

Charlie Manuel can't possibly stain his legacy as one of the most successful and lovable managers in Phillies history by failing to win the World Series this year. Or can he?

The same question being asked about Andy Reid applies to Manuel, too. With a team this overpowering, is there any way the manager can screw it up? Yes, he can. He most definitely can.

Like Reid, Manuel is far more talented behind the closed doors of the clubhouse than he is during a game. Naysayers point to the bullpen or the bench as fatal flaws on this amazing team. Please allow me to add Manuel's strategic shortcomings.

Do I have to remind anyone that the Phillies were a better team than the Giants last season? Have we conveniently forgotten the way Manuel blew the pivotal Game 4 by refusing to pitch Roy Halladay on three days' rest, or by failing to bunt with Jimmy Rollins?

Manuel manages with his gut more than his head, ignoring the able counsel of his bench coach, Pete Mackanin. Manuel burns his bench or his bullpen too early. To this day, people close to the team swear that Manuel won the title in 2008 because he started listening to his top assistant, Jimy Williams.

The Phillies are the Rolls Royce of baseball. Let's just hope the chauffeur doesn't get lost on the way to the parade.

Idle thoughts from Cataldi ...

1 The guts and the glory. Upon his induction into the Phillies Ring of Honor last Friday, John Kruk said something that should be engraved on his plaque. Asked about players who say Philadelphia is too tough on its athletes, he replied: "To those people I say, you didn't have the guts to succeed here."

2 From Rex's mouth to our ears. Rex Grossman is predicting that the Washington Redskins are going to shock the world and win the NFC East. Of course, this cannot possibly happen as long as the starting quarterback is a stiff named ... Rex Grossman.

3 Like coach, like receiver. DeSean Jackson ended his ridiculous holdout last week and then held a news conference for no apparent reason. He refused to answer almost every question, brushing off all major issues by saying he was "not getting into all of that." Andy Reid must have been very proud.

Action Jackson puts on clinic at Eagles camp

Receiver wows in first practice with team • Picks on Samuel in one-on-one drills • Birds break camp today

DeSean Jackson showed up at Eagles training camp and said he wouldn't be a distraction.

Off the field, anyway.

On the field, it's pretty hard not to be a distraction when you're clearly the best player on it. None of the Eagles' trio of vaunted cornerbacks could keep up with the electrifying Jackson yesterday, as he put on a clinic in his first practice with the team following a brief holdout.

"DeSean is a little different from us regular people," said Eagles offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg. "DeSean can, he's just got such a uniquely high level of talent. He's fast, he's quick, he's athletic, he's smooth, he's natural, he's smart, he's got all of those things and so he's quite different. And he had fresh legs as well."

At one point, Jackson went up to Mornhinweg, diagnosed the coverage and told the coach that he could go deep, since safety Kurt Coleman was "squatting" on him.

"That was half a joke, but he did do that," Mornhinweg said.

No matter which coverage the defense threw at Jackson, he beat it. And it didn't matter if it was Nnamdi Asomugha, Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie or Asante Samuel, his favorite victim. Jackson caught three would-be TDs against Samuel.

"We always have great competition and we've got some great, great cover men on this football team on the defensive side, so it only makes both sides better," Mornhinweg said.

The Eagles will hold an abbreviated workout today, then leave Lehigh.

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jackson caught three would-be touchdowns yesterday against Asante Samuel.

Report: Maclin results revealed

The mysterious illness that is ailing Eagles WR Jeremy Maclin may be revealed today, according to a report in The Sporting News.

His brother, Andre,

told the magazine that his brother is "fine" and he is confident" he'll play this season.

Coach Andy Reid could not be reached for comment last night, but he's scheduled to address the media today. METRO

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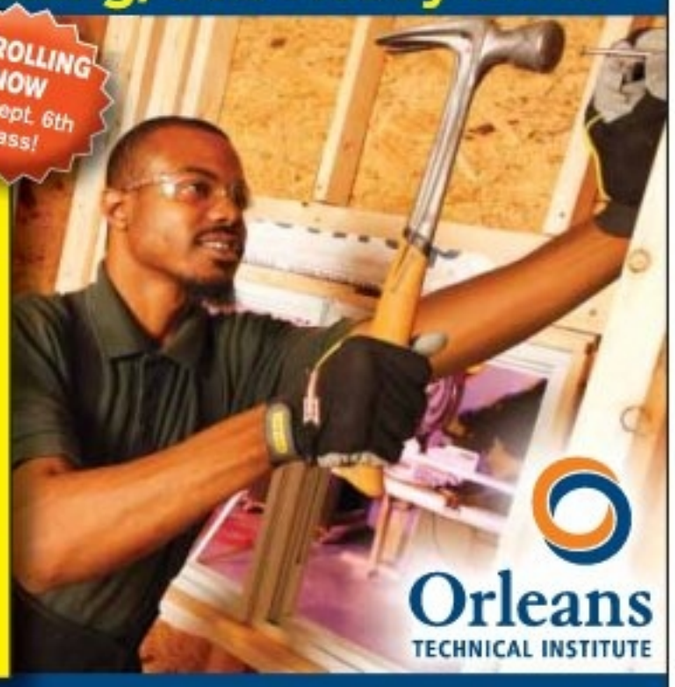

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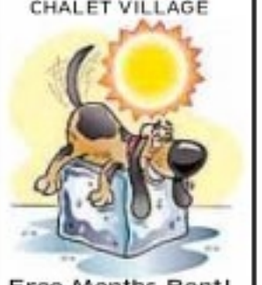

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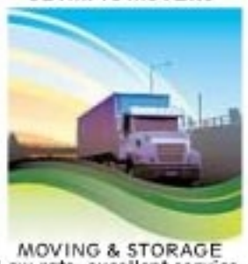

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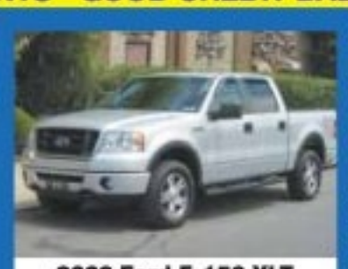

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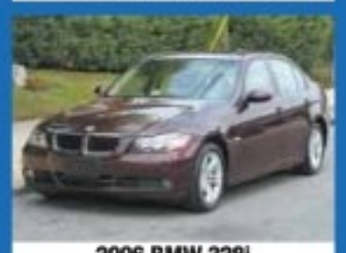

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'King' of Philly media gives up drive shift

Nitwits will no longer be judged at one local radio station.

Howard Eskin, the legendary sports talker at 610 WIP, is leaving his 3-7 p.m. time slot. A choked-up Eskin announced the decision yesterday around 4:40 p.m. His final show is scheduled for Sept. 2.

"You have often heard me say, 'I've never had a bad day in my life,' and I mean it," Eskin said. "This is really another great day in a terrific streak and I'm just starting a new chapter."

▶ Eskin

Eskin, 57, will continue to work at 610 WIP as an Eagles sideline reporter and consultant. Anthony Gargano is reportedly set to take over the highly-coveted afternoon drive shift.

"I will be giving up the 3-7 p.m. shift but will still continue as part of WIP, as part of the Eagles broadcast, along with the pregame shows and other shows and projects," Eskin said on air yesterday.

Eskin repeatedly told listeners that he made the decision to help further his broadcasting career. However, it's no secret he had fallen behind Mike Missanelli, at 97.5 The Fanatic, in the ratings. METRO

Fighting words

Eskin has been a pioneer in the Philadelphia sports talk world. However, he might be best remembered for feuding with Phils skipper Charlie Manuel in 2007. Here's some highlights of that heated exchange:

- The blow-up started when **Eskin questioned Manuel's toughness** in a postgame press conference.
- **Then,** Manuel had to be physically restrained as the argument spilled over into the Phillies' clubhouse.
- "I don't like what you've been saying about me for three years and I'm gonna **drop your ass** right there," Eskin quoted Manuel as saying at the time.

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Phillies sign top draft pick Greene

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Hit 19 home runs, 52 RBIs Also played football

The Phillies agreed to terms yesterday with top pick Larry Greene. The 18-year-old received a $1 million bonus, per MLB.com.

Greene was the 39th selection in June's amateur draft. He hit .562 with 19 homers and 52 RBIs this season for Berrien County High in Georgia. The 6-foot-1, 225-pounder also earned a football scholarship to Alabama.

Greene is a natural outfielder, but may play first base at the big-league level.

METRO

MLB NETWORK

▶ Greene donned the Phillies' cap at June's amateur draft.

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Temple Lung Center

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Penn Medicine

thailand

RAYAVADEE RESORT

Top ways to explore Krabi

A trip to the west coast of Thailand is a must when you visit the country Here are the most exotic experiences you can have And, yes, there will be monkeys

You can't visit Thailand without experiencing the country's incredible beaches. And since flights and ferries go to Krabi daily, the resort town is a perfect place for you to bask in the beauty of the Andaman Sea for a few days before taking off for other must-see Thailand destinations. We asked Veerasak Siburunang, general manager of the secluded five-star Rayavadee Resort (nestled in the photo above), for a few tips on how to make sure your trip to Krabi is an exotic one.

1. Kayak with monkeys
Kayak through lush mangrove forests at Ta Lane Nature Reserve. Ta Lane's cliffs, caverns and green "alleys" full of birds and curious monkeys are where nature-lovers should spend a day. Great for kids, too.

2. Rise to new heights with a rock-climbing lesson
If you're going to go rock climbing, you might as well do it in paradise. Raiay Beach is surrounded by magnificent limestone cliffs, and climbing instructors for all skill levels abound.

3. Have a candlelit dinner in a cave
Don't feel like climbing? Rayavadee's Grotto restaurant allows non-thrill seekers to enjoy dinner under a sheer limestone cliff face with views over Phranang Beach and Happy Island.

4. Take in the "view from above" at Tiger Cave Temple
Climb the 1,000-plus steps to the top platform of this local Buddhist pilgrimage site built around a steep cliff formation and enjoy stunning views over the plains below.

5. Get diving certification
Take a three-day dive course and explore the beautiful coral reefs of Krabi's underwater world — for half the cost of certification in the U.S.

6. Experience Phranang Beach
Consistently voted one of the world's most beautiful beaches, Phranang Beach's clear waters are perfect for a dip, snorkeling, kayaking or just enjoying a stroll on the soft, white sand. There is a shrine to a local princess in a cave at one end of the beach, which is definitely worth a visit for a bit of insight into local beliefs.

METRO

On the water

Boat it!

Krabi is world-famous for its water. A must-see is Phi Phi Island, which has the most exquisite turquoise water and white-sand beaches, made famous in the movie "The Beach" with Leonardo DiCaprio. There are full-day guided excursions via speedboats. You can also take a romantic cruise along Krabi's magnificent coastline aboard an antique Siamese junk boat. Rayavadee's 100-year-old Siamese junk, the Pla Luang (above), is one of only a few of these vessels remaining in the area.

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beaches

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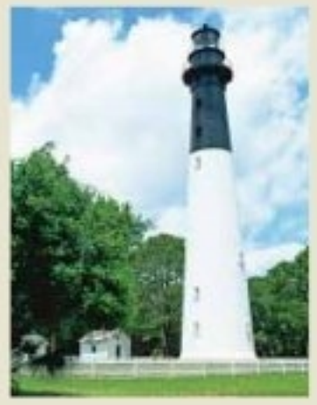
*– Go to **www.fodors.com** for more expert travel tips. Fodor's. For choice travel experiences.*

Massachusetts:
Chatham, Cape Cod
The 2,500-acre Monomoy Islands (now Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge), a fragile, 9-mile barrier-beach area south of Chatham that is accessible only by boat, is a haven for bird-watchers and an important stop along the North Atlantic Flyway for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

Fodor's Tips

Virginia:
Chincoteague Island
Although Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge is most famous for the small, shaggy, wild horses (adamantly called "ponies" by the public) that roam freely along the beaches and roads, this stunning area is also worth getting to know for its wildland, wildlife, and for simply enjoying a pristine oceanside environment.

North Carolina:
Cape Lookout National Seashore
Extending for 55 miles from Portsmouth Island to Shackleford Banks, Cape Lookout National Seashore includes 28,400 acres of uninhabited land and marsh. The remote, sandy islands are linked to the mainland by private ferries. Loggerhead sea turtles, which have been placed on the federal list of threatened and endangered species, nest here.



South Carolina:
Hunting Island
Secluded Hunting Island State Park has about 3 miles of public beaches — some dramatically and beautifully eroding. It harbors 5,000 acres of rare maritime forests. Nonetheless, the light sands decorated with driftwood and the raw, subtropical vegetation are breathtaking. Stroll the 1,300-foot fishing pier, among the longest on the East Coast, or you can go fishing or crabbing.

Georgia:
Sapelo Island
Reachable only by boat, reservations are required for a tour or lodging to book the ferry. Sapelo Island is home to the Geechee, direct descendants of African slaves who speak a creole of English and various African languages. This rapidly dwindling community maintains many traditional African practices, including the making of sweetgrass baskets and the use of herbal medicines made from recipes passed down for generations.

Credit Card Debt?

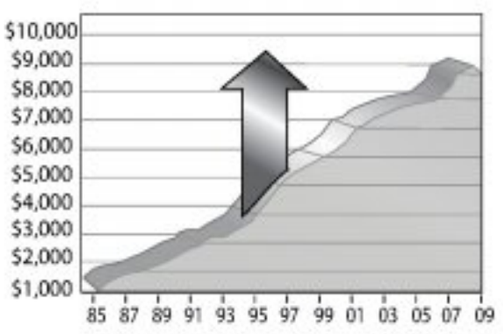
ADVERTORIAL

Solutions that can help you get out of debt.

Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

Every three minutes another person falls behind on credit card debt. It's no wonder, since every major credit card company has nearly doubled the minimum monthly payment on consumers' bills. Federal Regulators forced the change because of their concern about the growing mountain of consumer debt, which stands at $2.17 trillion. Many consumers can only pay the minimum payment, which can take up to 30 years to pay off. Now, relief is in sight for millions of Americans.

U.S. CREDIT CARD DEBT PER HOUSEHOLD ($)



(Data Source: U.S. Federal Reserve)

CreditGUARD of America, a non-profit licensed debt management service provider, is making a new program available to lower debt payments and become free of all credit card debt in only three to five years. Consumers need only $2,000 or more in total credit card debt and falling behind on any account, to cut their payment by 35% to 50%, and reduce or eliminate interest charges altogether.

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